



ELK GROVE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Fire ■ Emergency Medical Services ■ Parks & Recreation

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE OFFICIALS LAUNCH ANNUAL “WAR AGAINST WEEDS”

Elk Grove, CA -- It only takes one spark to set a field of dry weeds ablaze. As summer nears and the temperatures rise, Elk Grove fire officials are moving ahead with plans to control local grass fires.

“So far, Elk Grove has only seen a few small roadside grass fires – mostly due to people throwing cigarettes out their car windows,” said Engineer Joe Rau, “The threat will pick up soon though as the weather gets hotter and dryer.”

Steps to reduce the fire risk will start this month through the Fire Department’s annual weed abatement campaign. The campaign combines education and enforcement efforts to ensure awareness of and compliance with the local weed abatement ordinance. The ordinance requires local parcels of two acres or less cut so that weeds are no more than two inches tall. Parcels larger than 2 acres are required to have a thirty-foot fire break around structures.

Weed abatement notices will be sent out to land owners on May 3rd. Fire officials aim to have the entire district abated by July 4th. Landowners who do not comply could have a lien placed on their property and have the weeds removed by a CSD weed abatement contractor.

“480 parcel owners were notified last year. All but five complied by the deadline,” said CSD Fire Prevention Consultant, Joanna Rains.

There are some exemptions to the abatement ordinance. One is wetlands. They are protected by state and federal laws. Currently the District mows around them as a fire control method. Grazing land is another exception. “Because some livestock rely on tall grasses for food, it is necessary they are not cut down,” said Rains.

Those obligated to abate are strongly encouraged to cut their weeds in the early morning or late evening when the chance of starting a fire with a mower is less likely.

Residents may file complaints against properties that are overgrown and may need abatement. Copies of the complaint form are available at Elk Grove fire stations and the District office at 8820 Elk Grove Boulevard. Complaints may be also submitted from the CSD website at www.egcsd.ca.gov/fire/fire.html or through the Fire Department’s Weed Abatement Hotline at (916) 685-9501. To merit Fire Department enforcement action, weeds must be visible from the street.

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“Your Independent Local Government Agency Providing Parks, Recreation, Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services”